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NAT. SEC. FILE
Box 381 - Germany Berlin -
• General - Kissinger Reply -
• 3/3/61

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1961

Covering note on Henry Kissinger's memo on Berlin

Kissinger points out that chapters 1 and 2 are no longer highly relevant, and he adds that the paper is gravely inadequate on the subject of the use of nuclear weapons. He and Owen and Kaysen and I all agree that the current strategic war plan is dangerously rigid and, if continued without amendment, may leave you very little choice as to how you face the moment of thermonuclear truth. We believe that you may want to raise this question with Bob McNamara in order to have a prompt review and new orders if necessary. In essence, the current plan calls for shooting off everything we have in one shot, and it is so constructed as to make any more flexible course very difficult.